



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 162

February Session, 2014

Substitute House Bill No. 5395

House of Representatives, March 27, 2014

The Committee on Aging reported through REP. SERRA of the 33rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING AGING IN PLACE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective July 1, 2014*) (a) For the purposes described in
2 subsection (b) of this section, the State Bond Commission shall have
3 the power from time to time to authorize the issuance of bonds of the
4 state in one or more series and in principal amounts not exceeding in
5 the aggregate five million dollars.

6 (b) The proceeds of the sale of said bonds, to the extent of the
7 amount stated in subsection (a) of this section, shall be used by the
8 Department of Rehabilitation Services for the purpose of administering
9 a grant program to provide assistance to eligible persons, as defined in
10 subsection (d) of section 17b-607 of the general statutes, as amended by
11 this act, for home modifications and assistive technology devices
12 necessary for such persons to remain in a home setting of their choice.

13 (c) All provisions of section 3-20 of the general statutes, or the
14 exercise of any right or power granted thereby, which are not

15 inconsistent with the provisions of this section are hereby adopted and
16 shall apply to all bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission
17 pursuant to this section, and temporary notes in anticipation of the
18 money to be derived from the sale of any such bonds so authorized
19 may be issued in accordance with said section 3-20 and from time to
20 time renewed. Such bonds shall mature at such time or times not
21 exceeding twenty years from their respective dates as may be provided
22 in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the State Bond
23 Commission authorizing such bonds. None of said bonds shall be
24 authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that
25 there has been filed with it a request for such authorization which is
26 signed by or on behalf of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
27 Management and states such terms and conditions as said commission,
28 in its discretion, may require. Said bonds issued pursuant to this
29 section shall be general obligations of the state and the full faith and
30 credit of the state of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the
31 principal of and interest on said bonds as the same become due, and
32 accordingly and as part of the contract of the state with the holders of
33 said bonds, appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual
34 payment of such principal and interest is hereby made, and the State
35 Treasurer shall pay such principal and interest as the same become
36 due.

37 (d) Any funds available through the program established pursuant
38 to this section shall be expended only for grants and administrative
39 costs and shall not be expended for any other purpose.

40 Sec. 2. Section 17b-607 of the 2014 supplement to the general statutes
41 is amended by adding subsection (d) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

42 (NEW) (d) On and after July 1, 2014, the Commissioner of
43 Rehabilitation Services is authorized to establish and administer a
44 grant fund for the purpose of providing assistance to eligible persons
45 to undertake home modifications and acquire assistive technology
46 devices necessary to allow such persons to live independently in a
47 home setting. For the purposes of this subsection, "eligible persons"

48 means persons age sixty-five and older or persons with disabilities (1)
49 who are at risk of losing the ability to live independently at home
50 without such modifications or devices in the judgment of an assistive
51 technology professional rehabilitation engineer or a certified aging-in-
52 place specialist, and (2) whose income does not exceed four hundred
53 per cent of the federal poverty level.

54 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2014*) (a) The Commission on Aging
55 shall establish a matching grant program as part of the livable
56 communities initiative established pursuant to section 17b-420a of the
57 general statutes, as amended by this act. The matching grant program
58 shall provide assistance to municipalities and nonprofit organizations
59 engaged in initiatives designed to allow elderly persons and adults
60 under the age of sixty-five with disabilities to age in place and to
61 remain in a home setting of their choice in a livable community, as
62 defined in subsection (a) of section 17b-420a of the general statutes, as
63 amended by this act. Such initiatives shall include, but not be limited
64 to: (1) Affordable and accessible housing, (2) community and social
65 services, (3) planning and zoning regulations that permit homesharing
66 and accessory apartments for elderly persons and adults with
67 disabilities, and (4) transportation-related infrastructure that provides
68 ease of access to elderly persons and persons with disabilities.

69 (b) Each municipality or nonprofit organization applying for such
70 grant funds shall provide a fifty per cent match to such funds. The
71 Commission on Aging shall disburse grant funds in amounts not
72 exceeding one hundred thousand dollars such that no one region of
73 the state receives a disproportionate amount of such funds, provided
74 municipalities from throughout the state apply for such funds. In
75 considering applications from the same geographical region of the
76 state which equally satisfy eligibility criteria, the commission shall give
77 priority to applications from municipalities with population
78 percentages of persons age sixty-five and older and persons with
79 disabilities that exceed the state's total population percentages of such
80 persons, as defined in the most recent federal decennial census or in
81 estimates provided in the five-year interim by the Office of Policy and

82 Management.

83 (c) A municipality or nonprofit organization, receiving a grant
84 pursuant to this section, shall annually submit to the Commission on
85 Aging, on forms provided by said commission, the following data on
86 programs funded by such grants: (1) The number of elderly persons
87 and persons with disabilities assisted under the program, (2) the
88 number of home accessory apartments or shared homes approved
89 under the program, (3) the number and type of transportation services
90 or options added, (4) the number and type of community and social
91 services added or expanded, (5) a budget detailing municipal
92 expenditures on such programs, and (6) any other information
93 determined to be necessary by the commission.

94 (d) Any funds available through the program established pursuant
95 to this section shall be expended only for grants and administrative
96 costs and shall not be expended for any other purpose.

97 Sec. 4. (*Effective July 1, 2014*) The sum of one million dollars is
98 appropriated to the Commission on Aging, from the General Fund, for
99 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015, for purposes of the matching grant
100 program established under section 3 of this act.

101 Sec. 5. Section 17b-420a of the 2014 supplement to the general
102 statutes is amended by adding subsection (f) as follows (*Effective July 1,*
103 *2014*):

104 (NEW) (f) Not later than January 1, 2015, the Commission on Aging,
105 as part of the livable community initiative established pursuant to this
106 section, shall recognize communities that have implemented livable
107 community initiatives allowing individuals to age in place and to
108 remain in the home setting of their choice. Such initiatives shall
109 include, but not be limited to: (1) Affordable and accessible housing,
110 (2) community and social services, (3) planning and zoning
111 regulations, (4) walkability, and (5) transportation-related
112 infrastructure.

113 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2014*) The Department on Aging and
 114 the Department of Social Services shall hold quarterly meetings with
 115 nutrition service and food security stakeholders to develop
 116 recommendations to address complexities in nutrition services'
 117 administrative processes, establish quality control benchmarks and
 118 help move toward greater quality, efficiency and transparency in the
 119 elderly nutrition program. Stakeholders shall include, but not be
 120 limited to, area agencies on aging, access agencies, the Commission on
 121 Aging, nutrition providers, representatives of food security programs
 122 and contractors, nutrition host site representatives and consumers.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	17b-607
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	17b-420a
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2014</i>	New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In section 1(b) a reference to the definitional provision of section 17b-607(d) was added for accuracy, in section 2(d) a reference to section 1 in the definitional provision was deleted as redundant, and in section 3(a) the matching grant program language was rephrased and the appropriation provision was deleted and made a separate section for consistency with the style of the general statutes.

AGE *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 15 \$	FY 16 \$
Commission on Aging	GF - Cost	1,000,000	None
Treasurer	GF - Cost	None	500,000
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Cost	9,348	19,796
Rehabilitation Services, Dept.	GF - Cost	25,500	54,000

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill results in a cost to the state of \$1,034,848 in FY 15 and \$573,796 in FY 16 and authorizes \$5 million in General Obligation bonds in FY 15 which the Department of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) is to use to administer a grant program for home modification and assistive technology. The fiscal impact of the bond authorization is summarized in the table below. Assuming that the bonds are allocated through the State Bond Commission during FY 15 and the Office of the State Treasurer issues the bonds before the end of FY 15, the debt service cost in FY 16 will be \$0.5 million.

New GO Bond Authorization and Estimated Debt Service Cost \$ millions

Fiscal Year	Authorization Amount	Total Debt Service Cost*	Interest	Principal
FY 15	5.0	7.6	2.6	5.0

*Figures assume that bonds are issued at 5.0% over 20 year term

DORS would require funding for one durational position to

¹The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 36.66% of payroll in FY 15 and FY 16.

administer the grant program established under the bill. A Processing Technician position (CL-16), which has a salary range of \$44,000 to \$57,500, would administer the grant program. Using a median salary of \$51,000 and assuming that half-year funding would be required in FY 15, the cost including fringe benefits would be \$34,848 in FY 15 and \$73,796 in FY 16.

The bill appropriates \$1 million from the General Fund in FY 15 to the Commission on Aging to establish a matching grant program for municipalities and nonprofit organizations involved in implementing livable community initiatives. Municipalities and nonprofit organizations must provide a 50% match in order to qualify for the grant. The bill allows for the appropriation to be used for the grants as well as for administrative costs. In order to administer the grant program, the Commission on Aging would require outside technical assistance estimated to be less than \$10,000.

There is no fiscal impact to the Departments of Aging and Social Services to hold quarterly meetings with nutrition service and food security stakeholders.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

*Sources: Department of Administrative Services website
Personnel Expenditures Projection System*

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 5395*****AN ACT CONCERNING AGING IN PLACE.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill authorizes up to \$5 million in general obligation bonds for a program to provide grants to help income-eligible seniors and adults with disabilities modify their homes so they may age in place (i.e., stay in their own home or community setting of their choice regardless of age or disability). It appropriates \$1 million from the General Fund to the Aging Commission for FY 15 to establish a matching grant program for municipalities and nonprofit organizations involved in implementing livable community initiatives, such as accessible housing and community and social services, designed to allow aging in place. The municipalities and nonprofit organizations must match 50% of the grant. The funds available under both programs may be spent only for grants and administrative costs.

The bill requires the Aging and Social Services (DSS) departments to hold quarterly meetings with nutrition service and food security stakeholders to develop recommendations on the Elderly Nutrition Program, which uses state and federal funds to provide free meals to seniors and their spouses at home and a congregate locations. The recommendations must (1) address complexities in nutrition services' administrative processes; (2) establish quality control benchmarks; and (3) help move toward greater quality, efficiency, and transparency in the program. Stakeholders must include area agencies on aging, access agencies, the Aging Commission, nutrition providers, representatives of food security programs and contractors, nutrition host site representatives, and consumers.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2014

AGING IN PLACE

Beginning July 1, 2014, the bill authorizes the rehabilitation services commissioner to establish and administer a program to provide grants to eligible people to modify their homes and acquire assistive technology devices necessary to allow them to live independently in a home setting. An eligible person is anyone age 65 and older and anyone (presumably an adult) with a disability (1) who is at risk of losing the ability to live independently at home without the modifications or devices, in the judgment of an assistive technology professional rehabilitation engineer or a certified aging-in-place specialist, and (2) whose income does not exceed 400% of the federal poverty level (i.e., for FY 14 \$3,890 per month and \$46,680 per year for an individual and \$6,597 per month and \$79,160 per year for a family of three).

The bill authorizes up to \$5 million in bonds for the program.

LIVABLE COMMUNITY INITIATIVE MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM

PA 13-109 required the Aging Commission to establish a “Livable Communities” initiative to serve as a (1) forum for best practices and (2) resource clearinghouse to help municipal and state leaders design livable communities that allow residents to age in place. The bill appropriates \$1 million from the General Fund to the commission in FY 15 to establish a matching grant program as part of the initiative.

The program must provide assistance to municipalities and nonprofit organizations engaged in initiatives designed to allow seniors and people under age 65 with disabilities to age in place and remain in a home setting of their choice in a livable community. By January 1, 2015, the bill requires the commission to recognize communities that have implemented such initiatives.

Livable community initiatives include:

1. affordable and accessible housing,
2. community and social services,

3. planning and zoning regulations that permit homesharing and accessory apartments for the target population,
4. walkability, and
5. transportation-related infrastructure that provides ease of access to elderly persons and people with disabilities.

Fund Disbursement

A municipality or nonprofit organization applying for grants must provide a 50% match. The commission must disburse the funds in amounts not exceeding \$100,000 such that no one region of the state receives a disproportionate amount, provided municipalities from throughout the state apply. In considering applications from the same geographical region of the state that equally satisfy eligibility criteria, the commission must give priority to applications from municipalities in which the percentage of the people age 65 and older and with disabilities exceeds the percentage in the state, as defined in the most recent federal decennial census or the estimate the Office of Policy and Management provides in the fifth year after each decennial census.

Recipient Data-Reporting Responsibilities

A municipality or nonprofit organization, receiving a grant, must annually submit to the commission, on commission forms, the following data on programs funded by the grants:

1. number of seniors and people with disabilities approved,
2. number of home accessory apartments or shared homes approved,
3. number and type of transportation services or options added,
4. number and type of community and social services added or expanded,
5. a budget detailing municipal expenditures on such programs, and

6. any other information the commission determines necessary.

BACKGROUND

Elderly Nutrition Program

Pursuant to federal law, DSS operates elderly nutrition projects that provide nutritionally sound meals to people age 60 and older and their spouses. Programs must provide one meal per day, five days a week. These meals are either offered at congregate sites, known as “senior community cafes,” or delivered to the homes of people too frail to come to the congregate locations or cook for themselves. Disabled people living in housing facilities that are congregate meal sites can also receive meals. The meals are free, although voluntary contributions are encouraged. Both federal and state funds are used to pay the program costs.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Aging Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 12 Nay 0 (03/11/2014)